

clearly that he had no intention of going into complete retirement. A single, career, as brilliant as it was, was not enough for a man with the vigor, the zeal and the passion for public service, of Luther Hodges. And so, he chose, as we know, another career in politics. Without the support of the Democratic Party "regulars" of his State, he ran for the Lieutenant Governorship of North Carolina and won in 1952. He succeeded to the Governorship in 1954, and two years later was elected to a full term as Governor by the largest majority ever given to a candidate for that office in his State.

This "business man turned politician," as he was described in one magazine article, became renowned for many of his achievements, but the eyes of the nation turned upon him primarily for the success he achieved in the economic development of his State. During his six years as Chief Executive, he was able to lure to North Carolina, industrial plants valued at many hundreds of millions of dollars, generally outstripping his competitors in this field. As Governor, he personally led task forces into other regions, exhorting and cajoling factories, mills and business establishments to come to the promised land of North Carolina.

One story about him is that when he ventured out on these expeditions, the governors of the invaded states would wire mayors of towns and cities: "Lock up your factories; this man Hodges from North Carolina is headed this way." Not content with what he found on this side of the Atlantic, he moved his task force into Europe to woo industry—to Amsterdam, to Paris, to Stuttgart, to Munich.

One magazine article wrote this about him:

"When the future historians and educators put their heads together to find the South's most striking example of leadership, they will look long and hard before they surpass the business Governor."

It was no surprise, then, that when it came time for President Kennedy to select the head of the Department of Commerce, he chose this businessman-statesman. We are all pleased that he has elected to remain at his post.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure and an honor to present to you the honorable Luther H. Hodges, our Secretary of Commerce.